

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, RH, TZ, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRESS CONFERENCE OF ROBERT MUGABE

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE CARRIED FRONT PAGE
25 DECEMBER DAILY NEWS UNDER HEADING "NEW UK PLOT REJECTED".

2. BEGIN TEXT

ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST LEADER, NDUGU ROBERT MUGABE, LAST NIGHT
REJECTED THE FOUR METHODS OF ADMINISTERING DEFENCE AND LAW AND
ORDER MINISTRIES DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD ANNOUNCED BY
BRITISH ENVOY IVOR RICHARD ON THURSDAY IN WASHINGTON.

SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AT THE DAR ES SALAAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AFTER ARRIVING FROM EASTERN EUROPE, THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL
UNION SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THE PORTFOLIOS OF DEFENCE AND LAW
AND ORDER WERE "TOO IMPORTANT TO BE RUN BY SETTLERS DURING THE
TRANSITIONAL PERIOD."

HE SAID IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS FOR THE SETTLERS WHO WERE MURDERING
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THE ZIMBABWEANS TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE LATTER'S SECURITY DURING
THE CRUCIAL TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

NDUGU MUGABE SAID ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN DURING THE NINE TO TWELVE
MONTHS OF TRANSITION AS IT DID IN MOZAMBIQUE. THE REACTIONARIES
TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE MOZAMBIKAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE NINE MONTHS

OF TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.

"WE WANT THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO BE TOTAL. AND WE WANT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT TO BE IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE VITAL PORTFOLIOS OF DEFENCE AND LAW AND ORDER", THE NATIONALIST LEADER SAID.

BRITAIN HAD PROPOSED: DIRECT CONTROL BY BRITAIN OF THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENCE AND LAW AND ORDER.

CONTROL OF THE PORTFOLIOS BY A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF EQUAL NUMBER OF SETTLERS AND AFRICANS, WITH A NEUTRAL, PRESUMABLY BRITISH, CHAIRMAN.

GIVING ONE OF THE PORTFOLIOS TO A SETTLER AND THE OTHER TO AN AFRICAN.

GIVING BOTH PORTFOLIOS TO A RHODESIAN WHITE WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE ALL-WHITE RHODESIAN FRONT PARTY OF IAN SMITH.

NDUGU MUGABE SAID NATIONALISTS FAVOURED BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IN THE FORM OF A RESIDENT COMMISSIONER WHO WOULD NOT HAVE EXECUTIVE POWERS: HE WOULD BE MOSTLY A CEREMONIAL FIGURE.

ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, NDUGU MUGABE SAID BRITAIN WAS NOT SERIOUSLY NEGOTIATING FOR THE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE SETTLERS TO THE AFRICANS.

HE SAID ALTHOUGH BRITISH CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN IVOR RICHARD WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID TO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED BY HIS COUNTRY'S CABINET, HE LACKED AUTHORITY AND EACH TIME THERE WERE PROBLEMS HE HAD TO "JUMP" TO LONDON FOR CONSULTATIONS.

HE DID NOT SEE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ACHIEVING WHAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD WANTED TO. IN FACT, HE SAID, BRITAIN WAS NOW TALKING ABOUT THE SHARING OF POWER INSTEAD OF TOTAL TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY.

ON THE QUESTION OF ELECTIONS FOR THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT PRIME MINISTER, NDUGU MUGABE SAID "ONE-MAN ONE-VOTE" WOULD COME AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. END TEXT.
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